Proposal for Revising an Existing Graduate Program

1) Name of the Program: Counseling Services
   Award: CAS
   Program Code: 13972
   Certificate Area: School Counseling

2) Description and Rational of Proposed Change.

   The demands on practitioners in the field of School Counseling are constantly changing and increasing. To date, our school counseling students have very limited opportunities to explore areas beyond the ones required by their master’s program. While these are critical training requirements, there would be value in providing additional opportunities for more comprehensive training in certain areas relevant to their future work as practitioners (e.g., receiving additional and more intensive training in substance abuse, play therapy, or family systems) or to produce scholarly papers or educational resources for presentation at peer-reviewed conferences or submission to peer-reviewed publications. Our current program does little to reward students who show such initiative. The proposed changes would address this issue. That is, in an attempt to provide other meaningful and pedagogically sound opportunities for students to earn a CAS degree, the Counseling and Psychological Services department at SUNY Oswego, is proposing the addition of two additional options by which students could complete a CAS degree. The completion of one of the proposed options would replace the thesis requirement only and would not replace already required graduate credit hours. A summary of the current and additional options are provided below.

   **Current Option for Earning a CAS**

   Currently students who wish to complete a CAS degree must complete a master’s degree in a relevant field, a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate coursework taken within the Counseling and Psychological Services Department at SUNY Oswego, an internship under the supervision of CPS faculty, a comprehensive examination, and an approved thesis or project.

   **Proposed Option Additions (in italics)**

   In the proposed changes to the CAS degree, student’s would have the same requirements (i.e., a master’s degree in a relevant field, a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate coursework taken within the Counseling and Psychological Services Department at SUNY Oswego, an internship under the supervision of CPS faculty, a comprehensive examination), and must complete one of the following three options:

   - The satisfactory completion of an approved thesis or project (see the attached from the CPS Student Handbook)